

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/086,692

Examiner

EDMUND H. LEE

Applicant(s)

AKASHI, SHUNJI

Art Unit

1732

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to PRE-AMENDMENT FILED 3/4/02.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 15-17 and 19.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 04 March 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 7/18/02
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 12132004
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Trudy Wade on 12/13/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the title:

The title, in entirety, has been replaced with --MANUFACTURING METHOD OF A SNAP FASTENER--.

In the specification:

Pg 1, first paragraph (continuation data): the phrase --now abandoned,-- has been inserted after "24, 1999"; and the phrase --now US Patent No. 6079083-- has been inserted after "10,1999".

In the claims:

CI 15, ln 2: the phrase "male or" has been deleted.
CI 15, ln 3: the phrase "male or" has been deleted.
CI 17, ln 2: the phrase "snap fastener is a"; and the word "comprising" has been changed to --comprises--.

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Claim 18 has been deleted.

The following new claim 19 has been added:

--Manufacturing method of a snap fastener with tape for integrally molding a male button made of synthetic resin on front and back faces of tape such that the male button holds a peripheral edge of an attachment hole of the tape having at least one attachment hole, comprising the steps of:

fixing the tape with the attachment hole in position between cavities of a fixed mold and a movable mold;

closing the movable mold against the fixed mold and clamping a tape portion of the peripheral edge of the attachment hole by at least a pair of clamping members projecting to face each other in the cavities of the molds;

forming an introducing passage for introducing molten resin through a center portion of the attachment hole of the tape and at least one molten resin guide passage for supplying the molten resin linearly from the introducing passage as a center toward the peripheral edge of the attachment hole;

forming an opening of the introducing passage to directly open into a cavity face opposite to a cavity face for molding the engaging portion;

forming in the same opposite cavity face at least one or more molten resin guide passages having at least one wedge-shaped recessed groove with an end communicating with the opening of the introducing passage and a tip end thereof directed to the peripheral edge of the attachment hole of the tape;

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forming the opening of the introducing passage near a plane including the attachment hole of the tape;

injecting the molten resin into the cavity through the molten resin guide passage toward the peripheral edge of the attachment hole of the tape; and

fracturing and removing a molded portion of the introducing passage, wherein the male member comprises the male button which is in a substantially T-shape in section, and has an engaging portion to be engaged with a female button at a center portion of the male button, and which is molded integrally with the tape.—

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In regard to claim 15, the prior art of record does not teach nor render obvious all of the claimed limitations including the step of connecting.

In regard to new claim 19, the prior art of record does not teach nor render obvious all of the claimed limitations including forming an opening of the introducing passage to directly open into a cavity face opposite to a cavity face for molding the engaging portion; forming in the same opposite cavity face at least one or more molten resin guide passages having at least one wedge-shaped recessed groove with an end communicating with the opening of the introducing passage and a tip end thereof directed to the peripheral edge of the attachment hole of the tape; forming the opening of the introducing passage near a plane including the attachment hole of the tape; injecting the molten resin into the cavity through the molten resin guide passage

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toward the peripheral edge of the attachment hole of the tape; and fracturing and removing a molded portion of the introducing passage.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EDMUND H. LEE whose telephone number is 571.272.1204. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-THURSDAY FROM 9AM-4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Colaianni can be reached on 571.272.1196. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EDMUND H. LEE
Primary Examiner
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12/13/02